

MEETING MINUTES
Board of Alcohol and Drug Counseling
January 8, 2015

These minutes were
approved by the Board on
April 9, 2015

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Board of Alcohol and Drug Counseling was called to order by Natasha Robinson, Chair, at 9:09 a.m., in Lower Level Room F, State Office Building, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska. Copies of the agenda were mailed to the Board members and other interested parties in accordance with the Open Meetings Law.

Members Present:	Christine Chasek	-	Vice-Chair
	Lori Cleveland	-	Member
	Jason Conrad	-	Secretary
	Jody Gilfillan	-	Member
	Natasha Robinson	-	Chair
	Marlene Schneider	-	Member

Members Absent:	Tomeka Johnson	-	Member
	William Mulligan	-	Member (arrived at 9:10 a.m.)
	Alfredo Ramirez	-	Member

Staff Present:

Julie Agena, Assistant Attorney General
Kris Chiles, Licensure Unit
Nancy Herdman, Licensure Unit
Barb Remmers, Investigator

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

9:10 a.m. - Mulligan entered meeting

The members introduced themselves as there were two new members – Cleveland and Gilfillan,

MOTION: Mulligan moved, seconded by Schneider, to approve the agenda. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Chasek, Cleveland, Conrad, Gilfillan, Mulligan, Robinson, Schneider (7). Voting nay: None (0). Absent: Johnson, Ramirez (2). Motion carried.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (10-9-14)

MOTION: Chasek moved, seconded by Mulligan, to approve the minutes of 10-9-14. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Chasek, Conrad, Mulligan, Robinson (4). Voting nay: None (0). Absent: Johnson, Ramirez (2). Abstain: Cleveland, Gilfillan, Schneider (3). Motion carried.

4. INVESTIGATIVE REPORTS/COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND APPLICANT CONVICTION/SENSITIVE INFORMATION – CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: Conrad moved, seconded by Schneider, to enter into closed session at 9:18 a.m. to hear discussions of investigative reports, and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputations of the individuals. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Chasek, Cleveland, Conrad, Gilfillan, Mulligan, Robinson, Schneider (7). Voting nay: None (0). Abstain: None (0). Absent: Johnson, Ramirez (2). Motion carried.

9:19 a.m.	-	Conrad and Gilfillan departed meeting (conflict)
9:51 a.m.	-	Conrad entered meeting
10:30 a.m.	-	Gilfillan entered meeting
10:34 a.m.	-	Remmers departed meeting
10:54 a.m.	-	Break
11:10 a.m.	-	Meeting resumed

11:22 a.m. - Agena departed meeting
11:23 a.m. - Break
11:45 a.m. - Meeting resumed
11:45 a.m. - Darrel Klein and Kevin Griess, Department Attorneys, entered the meeting

MOTION: Chasek moved, seconded by Schneider, to return to open session at 11:55 a.m. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Chasek, Cleveland, Conrad, Gilfillan, Mulligan, Robinson, Schneider (7). Voting nay: (0). Absent: Johnson, Ramirez (2). Motion carried.

5. APPLICATION REVIEWS: PLADC AND LADC – OPEN SESSION

a. APPLICATIONS/REINSTATEMENTS

Heather Obara – PLADC applicant

Application Summary: Conviction review.

MOTION: Conrad moved, seconded by Chasek, to recommend issuance of the PLADC license with no terms or conditions. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Chasek, Cleveland, Conrad, Gilfillan, Mulligan, Robinson, Schneider (7). Voting nay: None (0). Absent: Johnson, Ramirez (2). Abstain: None (0). Motion carried.

Cori Porter – PLADC applicant

Application Summary: Conviction review.

MOTION: Chasek moved, seconded by Conrad, to recommend issuance of the PLADC license with no terms or conditions. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Chasek, Cleveland, Conrad, Gilfillan, Mulligan, Robinson (6). Voting nay: Schneider (1). Absent: Johnson, Ramirez (2). Abstain: None (0). Motion carried.

Christopher Stevens – LADC reinstatement

MOTION: Schneider moved, seconded by Conrad, to recommend deferral of the application and request additional information. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Chasek, Cleveland, Conrad, Gilfillan, Mulligan, Robinson. Schneider (7). Voting nay: None (0). Absent: Johnson, Ramirez (2). Abstain: None (0). Motion carried.

Marie Keese – PLADC reinstatement following disciplinary action; voluntary surrender

MOTION: Conrad moved, seconded by Schneider, to recommend reinstatement. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Chasek, Cleveland, Conrad, Gilfillan, Robinson. Schneider (6). Voting nay: None (0). Absent: Johnson, Ramirez (2). Abstain: Mulligan (1). Motion carried.

Herdman handed out a Verification of Supervised Practical Training form that contained more than 8 hours of core function performance per day. The Board had requested her to provide them with these forms when they contained more than 8 hours of training per day. Chasek commented that it had been discussed adding a total column on the form for each day. Mulligan commented he felt the regulations should limit the hours.

6. UPDATES/REPORTS

• Mental Health Practice Regulations (172 NAC 94)

Chiles reported there had been no changes regarding the Mental Health Practice Regulations since reported at the last meeting. She reiterated they had been approved by the Board of Health and were awaiting Department review by Dr. Acierno. Schneider asked how important this would be with the new administration and upcoming legislative session and Chiles responded that things would likely be delayed. Chiles summarized that a directory as a method of referral stayed in the regulation draft and gender identity was added back under the discrimination section.

- **IC&RC Annual Meeting Report**

Robinson attended the October 2014 meeting and she provided a brief written summary. She stated they had started to discuss on Tuesday the proposed changes to the standards, including requiring a bachelor's degree, which was tabled to the Thursday session and then tabled to the next meeting. She expressed her frustration to IC&RC about tabling the discussion. Robinson stated some states were concerned about the bachelor degree because it was any type of bachelor degree and others felt a bachelor requirement would deplete a limited workforce. There were also concerns expressed about only allowing the examination to be taken after all other standards were met with a discussion about how other professions who did not set such a stipulation. The Board discussed writing a letter to IC&RC which Robinson agreed to draft and bring to the April meeting for finalization. Chiles commented that more applicants applying for the alcohol/drug license also hold a LMHP. She also stated that when the gambling counselors were pursuing licensure that Dr. Schaefer had suggested the creation of an addiction credential. Gilfillan commented that Southeast Community College was developing a track that included the 8 courses.

- **Justice Behavioral Health Committee**

Chasek reported the next meeting was in March. She said the Committee was working on a fee for service voucher for mental health, trying to increase their role in prison reform and that there was now a formal application with a requirement to complete CEUs to be an approved provider. Chasek stated they have a quality assurance tool that is currently being tested which may result in doing audits of assessments in the future.

- **Disciplinary/Non-Disciplinary Action Report**

Chiles reported that 5 individuals who held LADC and 8 individuals who held PLADC were currently on probation.

- **Licensure, Examination Statistics & Administrative Fees**

Chiles reported the following statistics:

1. For the period 1-1-14 to 1-1-15, 38 individuals passed the examination, 5 failed and there was 1 no show.
2. The following number of active licensed counselors:
LADC 656
PLADC 352
3. Administrative penalty fees collected during the last year were \$250.

Chiles reported the following regarding alcohol/drug counselors who held another credential:

LADC/PLADC and LIMHP:	278
LADC/PLADC and LMHP:	439
LADC/PLADC and PLMHP:	113
LADC and Psychologist:	3

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Correspondence

Robinson reported she had been contacted by Kim Lytle who had concerns regarding alcohol/drug counselors and stated she had received poor service from three individuals. She felt that alcohol/drug counselors needed better education. Robinson said she encouraged her to make a report to investigations if there had been anything unethical but she had been reluctant to do so as she had a similar experience in Ohio and felt it did not go well. Lytle indicated she may contact other Board members. Chiles cautioned the members not to give personal opinions if contacted as that could be viewed as the Board position.

Robinson had also been contacted by Amy Holmes who is with the Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska (BHECN). Holmes would like to present to the Board on what her organization is doing.

b. Conviction Review Guidelines Discussion

Chiles asked the members to review the Guidelines and come back with any suggested changes at the April meeting.

c. Confirmation of Method for Noticing Meetings

Chiles stated each year Boards need to determine where they want their agenda posted, pursuant to the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, Section 84-1411.

MOTION: Conrad moved, seconded by Mulligan to post Board agendas on the Department website and the Department bulletin board. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Chasek, Cleveland, Conrad, Gilfillan, Mulligan, Robinson. Schneider (7). Voting nay: None (0). Absent: Johnson, Ramirez (2). Abstain: None (0). Motion carried.

d. Appointments and Elections

- **Officers**
- **Investigative Consultant**
- **CE and Initial Education Consultants**
- **IC&RC Delegate**

MOTION: Schneider moved, seconded by Mulligan to retain the same slate of officers for 2015. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Chasek, Cleveland, Conrad, Gilfillan, Mulligan, Robinson. Schneider (7). Voting nay: None (0). Absent: Johnson, Ramirez (2). Abstain: None (0). Motion carried.

The officers would be:

Robinson: Chair
Chasek: Vice-Chair
Conrad: Secretary

The following appointments were made:

Investigative Consultant:	Ramirez with Gilfillan as backup
CE and Initial Education Consultants:	Chasek with Schneider as backup
IC&RC Delegate:	Robinson with Chasek as backup

Chiles stated that some Boards appointed individuals to serve as mentors for new Board members. Schneider offered to mentor the new members.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The chair declared the meeting adjourned at 1:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jay Conrad, Secretary
Board of Alcohol and Drug Counseling

Next Meeting: April 9, 2015
Recorded by: Nancy Herdman
Health Licensing Coordinator - Licensure Unit